

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 138

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

FOR VEST FROM KING

SUMMARY: FEW TRAVELERS MADE PRINT TODAY, WITH THEIR MOSCOW BUREAUS CARRYING THE LOAD. WIRES FOCUS ON POSSIBILITY CRITICAL STAGE ON SALT AT HAND AS POLITBURO CONVOKES SELF DAY EARLIER THAN SCHEDULED. END SUMMARY

1. NYT'S ONLY STORY IS SMITH'S FRONT-PAGER, WHICH HIGHLIGHTS MIDEAST DISCUSSIONS WHERE SOV CONCERN ABOUT STABILITY THEIR POSITION IN AREA IS COUNTERPOINTED WITH HAK'S DETERMINATION TO CARRY ON WITH PERSONAL MIDDLEMAN ROLE BETWEEN PARTIES. STORY HIGHLIGHTS TWO SIDES' REPORTED DECISION TO SET ASIDE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF SALT COINCIDING WITH GRECHKO'S HURRIED RETURN FROM IRAQ A DAY AHEAD OF TIME. AMERICAN SOURCES QUOTED ONLY MINIMALLY IN PIECE AS MOST OF IT HUNG ON SOVIET SOURCES SPEAKING IN UTMOST PRIVACY.

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2. LIKE GWERTZMAN, MARDER ALSO FAILED TO GET NAME IN

PAPER AS KAISER DID POST'S ROUNDUP, WHICH BURIED IN SECOND NEWS SECTION UNDER UNINFORMATIVE HEAD "KISSINGER HOLDS LENGTHY TALKS." THIS PIECE TOO HIGHLIGHTS ME DISCUSSION, WITH USUAL COUNTERS NOTED, AND LAYS EMPHASIS ON SOV'S SPECIAL EFFORTS TO CREATE FRIENDLY AND HOPEFUL ATMOSPHERE.

3. KEATLEY'S LONG TAKEOUT IN WSJ SENT YOU BY SEPTTEL.

4. STARR FRONTPAGED IN CHITRIB WITH MIDDLING PIECE EXAMINING OFFICIAL SOVIET VIEWS ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S WATERGATE PROBLEMS. LEAD IS "THIS IMPEACHMENT STUFF IS A RUMOR, AND WE DON'T DEAL IN RUMORS. SO SAYS, IN ESSENCE, THE CHIEF OF SOVIET RADIO AND TV, SERGEI LAPIN. IF HIS VIEW IS NOT TYPICAL, IT IS AT LEAST OFFICIAL." ON AND ON IN THIS VEIN, WITH LITTLE REFERENCE TO SUBSTANCE, SCHEDULE OF HAK'S ACTIVITIES.

5. CSM HAS ABOVE FOLD LEFT LEAD TWO COLUMN ARTICLE BY SAIKOWSKI. LEAD IS SOVIETS RENEW BID FOR U.S. KNOW-HOW. NO PICS. STORY BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH GVISHIANI, HEAD OF STATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. SAIKOWSKI QUOTES GVISHIANI SAYING "EVEN WITHOUT MFN TREATMENT OR CREDITS, MUCH WILL BE HAPPENING." SAIKOWSKI STATES THAT DESPITE DIFFICULTIES IN CONGRESS -- WHICH PIQUE RUSSIANS PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND POLITICALLY -- INTEREST AND ACTIVITIES OF SOV ORGANIZATIONS AND AMERICAN FIRMS HAVE NOT SLACKENED. REASON FOR GVISHIANI'S OPTIMISM IS MANY DEALS DO NOT REQUIRE EX-IM FINANCING AND OWING MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES FINANCING CAN BE SOUGHT IN WESTERN EUROPE.

6. SCHWEID IN AP'S 2ND ONITER COOLS OFF EARLIER STORY ABOUT SUDDEN CANCELLATION OF HAK-BREZHNEV MEETING, PRESUMABLY FOR HURRIEDLY SCHEDULED POLITBURO MEET. HIS SECOND NITE LEAD WHICH TOPPED PREVIOUS MUCH SOBERER: "THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT TALKS ON A NEW RUS-AMERICAN NUCLEAR ARMS TREAT WERE REACHING A CRITICAL STAGE LATE TODAY AS HAK AND BREZH RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS." STORY QUOTES HIGH SOV SOURCES TO EFFECT TWO SIDES HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON SEVERAL POINTS AND WERE NOW "TALKING ABOUT NUMBERS" OF WEAPONS. SAME OFFICIAL, CONCEDED SOME UNCLASSIFIED

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ISSUES REMAIN UNSETTLED, SHOOK HEAD VIGOROUSLY IN NEGATIVE WHEN ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS AN IMPASSE. STORY THEN PICKS UP HAK'S RETURN SKED, TOASTS AT GROM'S LUNCHEON AND ENDS ON WHO ATTENDED. NOTES GROM ARRIVED LATE, AND THAT "HARDLINER" GRETCHKO, KUZNETSOV AND SYTENKO DID NOT ATTEND AT ALL. QUOTES US OFFICIALS (DIRECTLY) THAT THEY PRESUMED SOVS "WANTED TO CAUCUS THEIR POINTS OF VIEW" (SIC).

7. LIKE AP, REUTERS ALSO HAD SECOND NIGHT LEAD CALMING
DOWN FIRST, MORE STARTLING STORY ABOUT SOVS UNEXPECTEDLY
CANCELLING TODAY'S MEET IN ORDER CONVOKE POLITBURO.
NELSON'S SECOND TRY MUCH MORE DOCILE: "HAK AND BREZH
ENDED THREE DAYS OF TALKS HERE TONIGHT AND AN OFFICIAL

CMQ DESCRIBED THEIR DISCUSSIONS AS 'BUSINESSLIKE AND
CONSTRUCTIVE.'" ONLY NOTABLE GRAF: "IT WAS THOUGHT
THE TWO SIDES HAD COMPLETED THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON HOW TO
PROCEED TOWARD A SECOND AGREEMENT TO LIMIT STRATEGIC
NUKES. HOWEVER, US OFFICIALS COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THE
NEGOTIATORS HAD MADE THE 'CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH' HAK
SAYS WAS MAIN AIM OF HIS VISIT HERE." RUSH

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